

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names.

We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled TISSUE ACCESSING AND ANCHORING DEVICE AND METHOD the specification of which was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 12, 2001 and assigned Serial No. 09/880,218.

This application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in earlier filed pending application Serial No. 09/727,112 filed on November 29, 2000, and 09/477,255 filed on January 4, 2000, and 09/856,187 filed on July 16, 1999, and 09/159,467 filed on September 23, 1998, and 09/146,185 filed on September 1, 1998.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by or any amendment(s) referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application and to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: None.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/727,112 filed on November 29, 2000;
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/477,255 filed on January 4, 2000;
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/356,187 filed on July 16, 1999;
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/159,467 filed on September 23, 1998; and
U.S. Application Serial No. 09/146,185 filed on September 1, 1998.

We hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

We hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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